

Message Text

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AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

UNCLAS WARSAW 1740

FOR: IBS-POLISH SERVICE, IPS, IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: U.S. SOCCER TEAM IN POZNAN

1. THE UNITES STATES SOCCER TEAM ARRIVED IN POZNAN ON MARCH 24 AND, DESPITE THE EXHAUSTING TRANS-ATLANTIC TRIP, IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR ITS MEETING ON MARCH 26 WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL TEAM IN POZNAN. ON MARCH 29 THE AMERICAN CONTINGENT WILL TRAVEL TO BYDGOSZCZ TO PLAY THE POLISH OLYMPIC TEAM.

2. KURT LAMM, SECRETARY OF THE U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION, AND MANFRED SCHELLSCHEIDT, THE TEAM'S ASSISTANT COACH, AGREED THAT WEDNESDAY'S MATCH WOULD BE "TOUGH" BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD MAKE A STRONG SHOWING AGAINST A POLISH SQUAD WHICH NEARLY WON THE WORLD CUP LAST YEAR. "OF COURSE THE TRANS-

ATLANTIC TRAVEL WILL HAVE ITS EFFECT", SCHELLSCHEIDT ACKNOWLEDGED", BUT WE CAME HERE TO PLAY SOCCER AND OUR BOYS ARE UP FOR THE GAME".

3. AFTER POLAND, THE AMERICAN TEAM WILL TRAVEL TO ITALY FOR TWO MATCHES BEFORE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. PLAYERS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN
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SOCCER LEAGUE COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF THE 16 MAN

UNITED STATES TEAM. "THE REAL PURPOSE OF THESE ENCOUNTERS", LAMM SAID, "IS TO PREPARE OUR TEAM FOR THE WORLD CUP FINALS AND ALSO TO QUALIFY PLAYERS FOR THE UPCOMING OLYMPICS". THE IDEA OF EXCHANGING VISITS BY THE POLISH AND AMERICAN SOCCER TEAMS EMERGED FROM A 1972 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCCER FEDERATION IN PARIS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH SOCCER FEDERATION, STANISLAW NOWOSIELSKI, REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FEDERATION FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY THE NATIONAL TEAMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. SCHELLSCHEIDT SAID, "WE ARE PROUD TO BE HERE, NOT ONLY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR COUNTRY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE AGAINST SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED SOCCER PLAYERS IN THE WORLD". FOLLOWING TUESDAYS PRACTICE SESSIONS, THE AMERICAN TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH POZNAN MAYOR STANISLAW COZAS AND LATER WITH POLISH JOURNALISTS. THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MATCH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION FOR BOTH TEAMS HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN POZNAN.

4. FOR POLISH SERVICE/IBS: AP AND UPI PLAN TO FILE REPORTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE WEDNESDAY MATCH. DAVIES

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